

CLAIMS

1. A submersible vehicle, comprising:
a hull having an external surface with a channel formed therein;
a sliding member disposed within the channel and moveable along at least a portion of the channel; and
a mounting assembly attached to the sliding member and including an engagement member coupled to the sliding member, the engagement member being moveable between a first position wherein the sliding member is moveable within the channel and a second position wherein the sliding member is secured in a fixed position within the channel.
2. The vehicle of claim 1 wherein the channel is integrally formed within the external surface of the hull.
3. The vehicle of claim 1 wherein the channel comprises a longitudinal channel.
4. The vehicle of claim 1 wherein the channel comprises a circumferential channel.
5. The vehicle of claim 1 wherein the sliding member includes an engagement surface that engages a locking surface of the channel.
6. The vehicle of claim 1 wherein the engagement member comprises a threaded member.
7. The vehicle of claim 1, further comprising a tow point assembly attached to the mounting assembly.

8. The vehicle of claim 1, further comprising a wing attached to the mounting assembly.

9. The vehicle of claim 1, further comprising a tail assembly attached to the mounting assembly.

10. The vehicle of claim 1, further comprising a propulsion unit attached to the mounting assembly.

11. The vehicle of claim 1, further comprising a support attached to the channel and projecting forwardly of the hull.

12. The vehicle of claim 1, further comprising a forward payload assembly including a support attached to the channel and projecting forwardly of the hull, the forward payload assembly including an imaging device.

13. A submersible apparatus, comprising:
a hull including an elongated channel;
a sliding member at least partially disposed within the channel and moveable along at least a portion of the channel; and
a mounting assembly attached to the sliding member and including an engagement member coupled to the sliding member, the engagement member being selectively engageable between a first position wherein the mounting assembly is moveable along the channel, and a second position wherein the mounting assembly is secured in a fixed position along the channel.

14. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the hull comprises a substantially enclosed hull of a submersible vehicle.

15. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the channel is integrally formed within the hull.

16. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the hull extends along a longitudinal direction and the channel comprises a longitudinally-extending channel.

17. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the hull has a circumferential portion and the channel comprises a circumferentially-extending channel.

18. The apparatus of claim 13, further comprising a tow point assembly attached to the mounting assembly.

19. The apparatus of claim 13, further comprising a propulsion unit attached to the mounting assembly.

20. The apparatus of claim 13, further comprising a payload assembly including a support attached to the channel and projecting forwardly of the hull, the payload assembly including an imaging device.